# THE LUTHERAN Witness

*Official Organ of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States*

**SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI**

*August 12, 1947*

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## *Explanation of Centennial Seal*

The Seal is placed upon a shield, which is the symbol of a strong and militant faith. In the center of the seal is the emblem of the city of Chicago, the confluence of the rivers, with the seal of St. Paul, the first church and the church in which Synod was founded, embossed upon it. The shield of St. Paul is placed upon a globe in order to show that our Church has grown to world-wide proportions. In the upper left-hand corner is the year of founding, Anno Domini 1847. In the upper right the Centennial year, Anno Domini 1947. Between the branches of the river are found the words "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" Running out from the seal are rays symbolic of that light reaching out to all the world. The legend around the outside is self-explanatory.

A. R. KRETZMANN

LUTHERAN · SYNOD · OF · MISSOURI · OHIO · AND · OTHER · STATES ·
THE · EVANGELICAL ·
A D MDCCC XLVII
A D MCM XLVII
Spiritus Gladius
DOMINUS ILLUMINATIO MEA ET SALUS MEA QUEM TIMEBO
CENTENNIAL CONVENTION · CHICAGO · 1947 ·

# Highlights of the Convention

The hospitality of our hosts, the Convention headquarters, the weather, the publicity of the local press — all this will be remembered by the delegates and visitors of the Convention of last month as a recollection of Chicago at its best. Certainly, the Committee on Arrangements did a magnificent job. They were able to persuade one of the city's most distinguished hotels to house for the first time a religious convention. The Palmer House is a marvelous hotel, with appointments as complete as any convention could wish. The furnishings of the Convention hall, of committee rooms and lobby, corridors and lounging spaces, are beautiful, and throughout the big establishment everything is in first-class repair and kept marvelously clean. A deep balcony runs clear around the ballroom in which the Convention was held and from this vantage point the beauty of the room and its gorgeous appointments made an indelible impression on the visitors to the sessions. Eight immense cut-glass chandeliers supplied the lighting; the entire ballroom gallery was festooned in brightly colored silk draping; and an immense burst of American flags stood out above the chairman's desk on the balcony level. The idea of these decorations as also of the splendid printing job done on the program of the opening service and of the Centennial celebration, the Convention owes to the artistic taste of the chairman of the committee which had these matters in hand, the Rev. A. R. Kretzmann of St. Luke's Church. In one word, no convention of the Missouri Synod ever was so efficiently housed and so well served as this.

### How the Convention Did Its Business

Those of us whose memory runs back to the meeting of 15 and 30 years ago stand simply amazed at the smoothness and dispatch with which the tremendous business, submitted in a book of 550 pages, was done. Not only was there an absence of a nervous husbanding of time, of crowding the speakers and committees to hurry up, but there was time over for the reading of doctrinal essays, for devotional exercises at the beginning of each session, and for special features, such as the unforgettable ceremony in which the head chaplains of the United States Army and Navy played their part. I believe that no one has left this meeting with the idea that his own particular interest was slighted for lack of time. That this can be truthfully said is due to two factors. In the first place, it is due to the parliamentary skill in which President Behnken again showed himself a master. Not only is he a living compend of every detail of parliamentary procedure, but his powers as chairman were exercised so fairly and intelligently, and with such consideration for any weaknesses of the speakers, that the business from the first day to the last was transacted without wrangles, resentment, or confusion. It should be said that also our Vice-Presidents, one and all, showed themselves most competent chairmen. This commentator has attended many secular meetings, scientific congresses, meetings of editors, political and semi-political gatherings, and he will say that no meetings are to his knowledge conducted with such skill, dispatch, and such a spirit of goodfellowship, as are the national conventions of the Missouri Synod.

A second factor which placed under obligations every delegate to the convention was the management of the mechanics behind the scenes. All that our delegates knew was the distribution of two magazines every morning, the *Daily Lutheran Witness*, mainly intended for the home folks, of course, but eagerly perused by the delegates in the moments before the opening devotions; and a daily sheaf of mimeographed sheets called "Today's Business." For the first, entire credit is due to the editorial finesse of the Rev. G. Mahler, editor of the *St. Louis Lutheran* and executive secretary of the Lutheran Publicity Organization of St. Louis. An even greater and more significant job was the guide for the transactions of the day, "Today's Business," by which every delegate was supplied with the full text of every committee report upon which his decisions were to be based. The Missouri Synod has a highly developed system of floor committees, to whom memorials addressed to the Synod are delivered with the understanding that they formulate clear, precise recommendations disposing of the questions submitted. These committees are supplied with necessary material by the Secretary of the Convention. Some of those sitting on more intricate or time-consuming problems began to meet half a week before the opening of sessions. So it was that on the opening day a large sheaf of mimeographed pages was handed each delegate, and this was repeated every day. The Convention Committee had supplied each delegate with a beautiful loose-leaf binder, the kind you pay $1.50 for at the stores. In this way a book was accumulated so that at no time was the Convention in any doubt as to the matters under discussion. The great amount of detail involved in this work was completely hidden in the efficiency of the service. This part of the convention business was entirely in the hands of Dr. Lawrence Meyer. He commanded the services of two able assistants, the Rev. Egon Gebauer and the Rev. Hugo Bloedel.

### First Things Were First

This issue of the WITNESS is devoted to a report on the transactions of the meeting. Having been written at the press table by the members of the editorial staff while the business was being ground out on the floor, they are a firsthand story of the resolutions, elections, and other transactions. It should be said that they are not the official and authentic record of the resolutions adopted; these will appear in the book of *Proceedings* some time later in the year. But they tell the story with sufficient detail to make clear that this was a convention blessed by the power of God's Spirit, a convention which stuck to its spiritual program throughout, reaffirmed its conservative Lutheran position, presenting the picture of a large and powerful body of Christians girding themselves for the tasks of an age offering new and splendid opportunities for sowing the seed of the divine Word.

Chicago THEODORE GRAEBNER

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# The Story of the Convention – Day by Day

## Triennial Meeting of the Missouri Synod, Chicago, July 20—29

### Thirty-Five Hundred Attend Opening Convention Service

The Synodical Centennial Convention opened its doors officially last Sunday evening in an impressive service at Chicago's Orchestra Hall, within easy distance from the Palmer House, synodical assembly headquarters. Attended by Synod's President, the Rev. J. W. Behnken, D. D., four Vice-Presidents, thirty-three District Presidents, and a congregation which occupied the 3,500-seats-hall to capacity, the service re-emphasized the mercy of God to the century-old Synod.

The Rev. Arthur Brunn of New York City, second synodical Vice-President, who delivered the sermon, pointed out, on the basis of Rom. 11: 22, that whereas nations are busy destroying their kingdoms, Jesus Christ is busy building His kingdom through the instrumentality of men. Among them were the founders of the Missouri Synod, who, although they grew up in a land and time of rationalism, miraculously learned to know the Gospel and, fearful that they might lose this treasure, immigrated to this country, only to find that the Lutheran Church in America reflected the rationalism of the Church in Europe.

Their conscience compelled them to found their own synod, and they demanded that anyone who would join them share their Lutheran convictions. Thus Christ used the fathers to build His kingdom.

The speaker continued: "And God wishes to use us. We must feel that the world's misery is our burden. We need to tell men all the great basic truths of sin and salvation, also with our lives. So, then, let us these days not only think of what God has done, but also of what God expects of us."

In charge of the liturgical portion of the service was the Rev. W. F. Lichtsinn of Hammond, Ind., chairman of the College of Presidents. Two anthems, "Jesu, Priceless Treasure" and "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," both in arrangements by Bach, were sung by an 83-voice choir under the direction of Paul B. Bouman, director of music of St. Paul's Church, Melrose Park, Ill. Preceding the service, Herbert D. Bruening, director of music of St. Luke's Church, presented a "Centennial Prelude" consisting of eight 17th century compositions.

### Monday, July 21

#### MORNING SESSION

The Centennial Convention opened with a devotional service at 9:00 o'clock in the convention hall of the Palmer House with an address by Pres. J. W. Behnken on the Lord's Prayer. Vice-President F. A. Hertwig served as liturgist.

An address of welcome was made by His Honor Martin Kennelly, the mayor of Chicago. Suitable response was made by Dr. Behnken. This was followed by

The Palmer House

the President's report, reviewing the work of the past triennium and suggesting guidelines for the future work of the Synod.

Floor Committee No. 2 reported on resolutions of gratitude, acknowledging the merciful guidance and protection of God and pledging a firm resolve to go joyously forward in our mission endeavors into the second century.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION

At the devotional service the address was made by President O. A. Sauer. Greetings were received from a number of representatives from affiliated bodies. President Harstad brought a greeting from the Norwegian Synod. Dr. Clarence Hoopmann spoke as official representative of the Synod of Australia and also brought a greeting from the New Zealand Conference.

From Germany two visitors representing our brethren in Europe made congratulatory addresses. They were Dr. P. H. Petersen, president of the German Free Church, and Dr. Matthias Schulz of the Breslau Synod, which recently was received into fellowship by our Free Church.

A number of changes were adopted affecting the constitutional provisions of Synod. The following was made the definition of the

"*Relation of Synod to Its Members.* Synod expects every member congregation to respect its resolutions and to consider them of binding force if they are in accordance with the Word of God and if they appear expedient as far as the condition of the congregation is concerned. Synod, being an advisory body, recognizes the right of the congregation to be the judge of the expediency of the resolution as applied to its local condition. However, in exercising such judgment a congregation must not act arbitrarily, but in accordance with the principles of Christian love and charity."

In the proposed *Handbook* the following paragraphs were approved: 1.01—1.11; 1.23—1.39; 1.51—1.61; 1.73—1.77. It was also resolved that the various sections of the *Handbook* shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the Convention.

Regarding the term of office, Synod resolved that the terms of office for all officers, boards, commissions, and committees of Synod shall be three years.

The result of the balloting for the presidency was reported with the following results: Out of 466 ballots, two were spoiled, 394 were marked for the incumbent, Dr. J. W. Behnken, and 70 were scattered. By resolution of the body this election was made unanimous.

The provisions for elective and active officers and boards were next discussed as submitted by the *Handbook* Committee. An amendment to make the Board for Higher Education an appointive one won by a vote of 249 against 150 and was made subject to the approval of the College of Presidents.

Regarding the Spanish version of the Bible it was resolved that the synodical boards of mission and publication continue the use of the Reina de Valera version for the publication of Spanish and theological literature, while not forbidding any pastor to use any other Spanish version.

The board of South America and the Board of Home Missions in North America were instructed to continue the study of Spanish Bible versions to bring about full agreement on the use of a given Bible version.

## Tuesday, July 22

### MORNING SESSION

Vice-President Dr. H. Harms delivered the address in the devotional service. The keynote of his message was: "May God preserve unto us a godly, faithful ministry."

After the minutes of yesterday's sessions had been adopted as read, the venerable Dr. William Dallmann delivered the first part of his essay, which is part of a group of Convention essays built around the general topic: "The Lord hath done great things for us." Dr. Dallmann, a student of Walther but still vigorous and mentally alert despite his 84 years, in his inimitable manner showed how Dr. Walther brought life into the Lutheran Church of America by championing true Biblical Lutheran doctrine, particularly in reference to the doctrine of the Church and the ministry.

The Convention now began to deal with problems concerning Synod's educational system. The senior college was given first consideration. The recommendations of the respective committee consisted of two sections:

A. That Synod establish a senior college (on the level of the junior and senior years of the American college system) as an additional unit in its program of the professional training of ministerial students.

1. That Synod's high school-junior college system be retained; 2. That the curriculum of our high school-junior college system, with any necessary changes, be integrated with that of the proposed senior college and that the curriculum of the senior college, or its equivalent, be a pre-requisite for entrance into the St. Louis seminary; 3. That efforts toward securing regional accreditation of the ministerial academies and junior colleges be accelerated during the next triennium so as to facilitate accreditation of the proposed senior college.

B. That the Board for Higher Education be directed to continue its study to determine a satisfactory location for the senior college, as well as its organization, curriculum, and plant requirements.

1. That upon completion of these studies the Board for Higher Education be instructed to formulate the above plans and to submit them together with its recommendations to the next Synodical Convention; 2. That any costs occasioned by the preparation and presentation of such preliminary plans be approved for payment as items separate from the regular budget of the Board for Higher Education.

Both recommendations were adopted.

The same committee also recommended the initiation of a student counselor program at our synodical schools. The Convention, however, postponed action on this matter.

A further recommendation was:

1. That the Board for Higher Education be authorized to direct a testing program annually; 2. That the Board for Higher Education be authorized to assemble, correlate, and file the results of any tests given by the colleges and seminaries; 3. That the Board for Higher Education be authorized to include in its budget and to refund to the respective school all costs involved in the administration of the College Sophomore Testing Program.

This, too, was adopted.

The results of the balloting for candidates for the vice-presidencies were announced. The twelve men who received the highest number of votes were declared candidates for the offices. Dr. Henry Grueber, who had served as Vice-President for years and who again was elected a candidate for the office, requested to be excused. The Convention respected his wish.

The Committee into whose hands the reports and overtures dealing with missions had been placed was next given the floor. Resolutions in which the Committee commended the Board for Home Missions and its secretaries for their vision and courage were adopted. A recommendation that the Board and its secretaries continue in their aggressive efforts and courageous leadership also received the Synod's approval.

In response to the Committee's further recommendation the Convention placed all Spanish-speaking missions now conducted by Home Mission Boards (missions in Mexico, Cuba, Isle of Pines, Panama, and West Indies) under the guidance of the Board for Home Missions of North America. This Board is to appoint a committee on Spanish missions from their own midst, which committee, however, may be augmented through the addition of advisory members or consultants from the ranks of these Spanish missions. The Spanish missions within the synodical Districts in North and South America are to remain under the guidance and direction of these Districts.

The Committee on Missions also had some recommendations looking towards making more mission reports available to LUTHERAN WITNESS readers. The Convention, however, referred these suggestions to the Committee on Publications. The Convention adopted a resolution commending our Mission Board for sending nine men to the Philippines and encouraged it to make the most of any opportunities which may offer themselves to our Church.

The closing part of the morning deliberations of Synod was devoted to the new *Synodical Handbook*. Since the selection of candidates for synodical offices had always been a crucial matter at the conventions, Synod readily adopted a new procedure, to wit:

The Committee on Nominations shall nominate candidates for all elective offices, boards, and committees, except those of the President and Vice-Presidents.

Provisions were also made to aid the delegates in making their choice of candidates intelligently by adopting the following new provision:

The Committee on Nominations shall meet prior to the convention to set up a tentative list of the candidates for all offices, such list to be subject to revision by the Committee as the election proceeds. All nominations made by the Committee, together with pertinent information concerning each candidate, shall be placed into the hands of the delegates, in written or printed form, before they are submitted to the Convention for amendment or ratification prior to the election. "Pertinent information" shall include factual information, such as age, occupation or profession, place of residence, District affiliation.

A cablegram from Dr. Gerstenmaier, Director of the *Deutsches Hilfswerk*, in which he expressed his gratitude to the Missouri Synod and extended his best wishes on the occasion of its Centennial, was read to the Convention by President Behnken.

After hearing announcements of importance to the delegates, the Convention brought the morning session to a close with the singing of the Table Prayer.

### AFTERNOON SESSION

The devotional service was conducted by District President W. L. Kohn. The minutes of the morning session were read and adopted.

The Rev. Dr. Settala, representing Archbishop Alexei Lehtonen of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, was presented to the Convention by Dr. J. W. Behnken. He read resolutions of greetings to Synod on its Centennial and suggested as a watchword for this time: "God forbid that I should glory save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; through whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world."

Committee No. 10, on the Catechism, gave its report, referring to Overture 708, the report of the Synodical Catechism Committee. On the recommendation of the Committee, the Convention expressed its thanks for the work of the Catechism Committee. The revisions suggested in Memorial 708 were adopted. The task of giving a proper definition for "Sabbath Day" in the rear of the Catechism was referred to the proper authorities. The Committee was encouraged to publish the Elementary Catechism for pupils of the third, fourth, and fifth grades as soon as possible. The memorials on a uniform text of Luther's Catechism were referred to the Catechism Committee. That Committee is to continue for three more years.

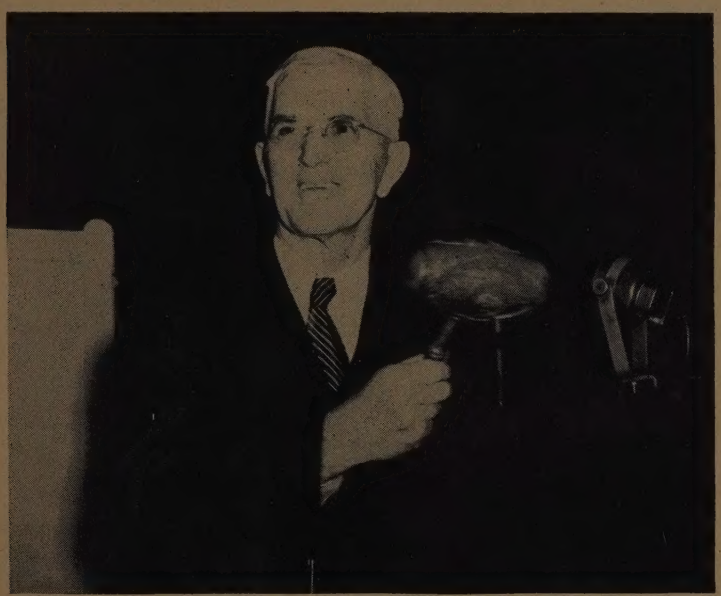
Committee No. 2, on Home Missions, continued its report. President Rudolpho Hasse of our Brazil District was presented, and likewise the Rev. S. Beckmann, Presi-

**At the Opening Service in Orchestra Hall, Procession of Presidents**

dent of the Argentine District. The former addressed the convention in German, the latter in English, extending the congratulations of the respective District and expressing thanks for all that Synod has done to carry on the work of the Lord in Brazil and Argentina.

The report on the balloting for Vice-President was as follows: A. Brunn, 344; H. Harms, 326; F. A. Hertwig, 260; W. F. Lichtsinn, 108; E. J. Friedrich, 93; A. Grumm, 92; O. A. Geiseman, 85; P. Schulz, 77; H. Romoser, 67; Paul Koenig, 61; M. F. Kretzmann, 57; A. R. Kretzmann, 42. Dr. A. Brunn, Dr. H. Harms, and the Rev. F. A. Hertwig were elected. Balloting for the fourth vice-presidential position continued.

Committee No. 2, on Missions, presented a resolution urging the South American Districts to develop a native ministry,



**Wielding a century-old gavel carved from a log belonging to the Perry County log seminary, Dr. Behnken, re-elected President of the Missouri Synod, declares the Centennial Convention ready for business**

which was adopted. Its recommendation on Overtures 407, 415, and 416 urging better salaries and transportation for workers in South America provoked sympathetic discussion and was carried.

The second ballot for Vice-Presidents resulted: W. F. Lichtsinn, 199; E. J. Friedrich, 119; A. Grumm, 90. The Rev. W. F. Lichtsinn and Dr. E. J. Friedrich were placed on the next ballot for the fourth vice-presidential position.

Committee No. 8 recommended that the request of the Synodical Literature Board that Concordia Publishing House, with proper safeguards, be granted permission to publish standard theological works otherwise unobtainable and not necessarily in full agreement with the censorial position of the St. Louis faculty be granted. After clarification this recommendation was approved. The request of Concordia Publishing House to undertake necessary expansion was granted.

Committee No. 9 recommended, in consideration of the report of the Board for Hymnology and Liturgics and Overtures 705 and 706, that Synod continue to publish only the tune edition of the *Hymnal*. This recommendation was adopted.

Committee No. 6, on the *Handbook*, recommended concerning Overtures 502 and 503 that Synod do not alter its practice of granting only one lay vote to a group of parishes served by the same pastor. The recommendation was approved. Concerning Overture 504, involving a reorganization of boards and committees of Synod, the Committee recommended that the matter be referred to the Fiscal Conference for disposal in such a way that it could go into effect at the next convention. The amendment was moved and carried that the matter be referred to a special committee appointed by the *Praesidium;* whereupon the Committee's recommendation carried.

Upon recommendation of the floor committee, Overtures 505 and 505a, requesting regional vice-presidents, and 506, limiting terms of office and rotating vice-presidencies, were declined in favor of existing practice. After consideration of the names of Synod recommended in Overtures 508—514 and 508a—h, Committee No. 6 recommended the name "Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod." After some debate the motion was made and carried to postpone consideration to the next day. Upon the Committee's recommendation the suggestions of Overture 529, concerning the synodical seal, were adopted. The question of combined administration of the Church Extension and Mission Departments, recommended in Overtures 507 and 527, was referred to the committee to be appointed regarding reorganization of boards. The provisions of the *Handbook* providing for rotation of names, without marks, on the ballot for elections, in subsequent years, were adopted; but it was agreed to preserve asterisks on this year's nomination and election ballots.

At the conclusion of the session Dr. Behnken thanked the convention for the honor which it conferred upon him in electing him for a new three-year term on the first ballot. He acknowledged his shortcomings, but expressed the belief that the vote was one of confidence particularly in the conservatism which he had demonstrated in doctrinal questions and asked for co-operation, particularly in consulting him on doctrinal questions, during the next triennium.

The third ballot for Vice-President resulted: Lichtsinn, 294; E. J. Friedrich, 149. District President Lichtsinn was declared elected.

## Wednesday, July 23

### MORNING SESSION

The opening service was conducted by District President A. C. Bernthal. The address, in which the "Each One Reach One" program was stressed, was delivered by the Rev. E. T. Bernthal of Detroit.

The registration for the Convention to date was as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Pastors | 297 |
| Lay delegates | 279 |
| Teachers | 77 |
| Advisory pastors | 31 |
| District Presidents | 32 |

The Committee on Nominations presented the following slate:

SECRETARY

(One to be elected)

Dr. M. F. Kretzmann, Central District
Rev. W. C. Birkner, Central District

TREASURER

(One to be elected)

W. H. Schlueter, Western District
Oscar Brauer, Western District

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Two to be elected)

Rev. Paul Koenig, Western District
Rev. E. T. Bernthal, Michigan District
Rev. Oliver R. Harms, Texas District
Dr. O. A. Geiseman, Northern Illinois District

(Four to be elected)

Clarence Amling, Southern California District
Harry Barr, Western District
J. W. Boehne, Southeastern District
Oscar T. Doerr, Northern Nebraska District
Anton E. Horst, English District
John Pohlman, Eastern District
Martin Salvner, Michigan District
Theo. Schlake, Northern Illinois District

The names of Mr. E. J. Gallmeyer and Dr. Paul Schulz were added by nomination from the floor.

Dr. William Dallmann concluded the reading of his essay.

The Committee on Colleges and Seminaries offered the following resolutions on the introduction of a cost accounting system, which were adopted:

1. That the Board for Higher Education be directed to make a cost accounting system available for the consideration of Synod's Board of Directors and fiscal officers;

2. That the Board of Directors be directed to introduce a system which is acceptable and adequate in the light of the needs listed;

3. That payment of costs involved in introducing such a system be authorized as an item separate from the budgets of the individual institution and the budget of the Board for Higher Education.

On Accreditation the following resolutions were adopted:

1. That all teacher colleges and junior colleges (except Edmonton) be directed to apply for regional accreditation as soon as they have achieved conditions which would give reasonable indication and assurance that they are acceptable to the association involved;

2. That the Board for Higher Education be directed to assist these schools wherever possible;

3. That the Board for Higher Education be authorized to recommend to the Board of Directors the appropriations of any funds required to achieve regional accreditation.

On the request for new buildings at our colleges and seminaries the Committee recommended the following list of appropriations, which was adopted:

| | |
|---|---|
| St. Louis — Mission House | $ 150,000 |
| Springfield — Administration; counseling facilities; library; dormitory | 200,000 |
| River Forest — Music | 200,000 |
| NOTE. — This is for construction purposes only. It is understood that equipment will be allowed upon completion of the building. | |
| Seward — Auditorium | 198,600 |
| Organ | 500 |
| Pianos | 5,834 |
| Milwaukee — Administration | 60,000 |
| Dormitory | 125,000 |
| St. Paul — Library | 100,000 |
| Bronxville — Library and science | 45,000 |
| Portland — Administration; library; chapel | 110,000 |
| Austin — Administration | 200,000 |
| Remodeling | 10,000 |
| Porto Alegre | 40,000 |
| Crespo | 20,500 |
| Buenos Aires | 29,528 |
| Total | $1,494,962 |

Finally, the following resolutions, offered by the Committee, were adopted:

1. That the amount of $242,445 for repairs and library and science equipment allowances asked by our educational institutions be referred to the Board for Higher Education and/or the Board of Directors with power to act;

2. That the Board of Directors make provision for additional dormitory space at St. Louis when it becomes necessary, subject to the approval of the Fiscal Conference;

3. That this Convention encourage the Fiscal Conference to place a major amount into the Budget for repairs at our synodical institutions.

The Committee on the *Synodical Handbook* reported on 6.51 of the *Handbook*, and the Convention adopted the following resolutions,* after several minor changes had been made, concerning the teachers at our preparatory schools:

"That the provisions for ranking be applied to all appointments of assistants who are beginning service on or after September, 1948;

"That all called men now on our teaching staffs be classified as associate professors after September, 1947. This classification is to effect no change whatsoever in the tenure, status, salary, title, or other prerogatives of the personnel involved.

"That beginning with the new fiscal year, February, 1948, the salary of all associate professors be automatically advanced to the minimum in the new scale to be recommended for that classification;

"That beginning with a new fiscal year, February 1, 1948, the salary of all presidents be automatically advanced to the minimum in the scale for that classification.

"That the policy of subsidizing professors or associate professors by grants in aid for university study be completely eliminated;

"That boards of control be directed to recommend subsidies for university study by instructors when such additional study is made mandatory by changes in local circumstances.

"That the Board for Higher Education be instructed to study the possibility of applying similar arrangements to the faculties of the seminaries and to report its findings and recommendations to the next Convention of Synod."

The Committee on Home Missions offered commendatory resolutions regarding the periodical *Today*, which were adopted.

Drs. Matthias Schulz and P. H. Petersen of the Church in Germany were then presented to the Convention. The former spoke in German, the latter in English.

The Committee on Home Missions continued to report on home missions in Europe, but adjournment came before completion.

* Printed in extracts only.

## AFTERNOON SESSION

Pastor I. C. Heinicke, President of the Southern Nebraska District, had charge of the opening devotions.

The committee dealing with constitutional matters presented its findings regarding an unprinted memorial requesting Synod's permission to establish a Florida District. The Convention sanctioned the formation of this 34th District and stipulated that its boundaries be established after consultation with officials of the Southern District and the Home Mission Board.

In order to cover the increased activities of Synod and protect its property, the Convention voted the appointment of a committee which is to report to the next convention on the question whether Synod's present charter should be amended or an entirely new one formulated.

**As Chaplain Martin C. Poch (left) tells how he caught a big fish in the Mediterranean, Chaplains Alvin A. Katt of Fort Lawton, Wash., William J. Reiss of Fort Bragg, N. C., and Rev. C. H. Neuhaus of Pembroke, Ont., Canada, look and listen**

Since God for a century had bestowed His blessings upon our Synod and since the future welfare of our Church depends on its continued loyalty to the Word of God, the Committee on Intersynodical and Doctrinal Matters brought in the following resolutions:

a. That our Synod express its sincere gratitude to God for His marvelous undeserved blessings;

b. That our Synod solemnly reaffirm its unwavering loyalty to the Scriptures as the inspired and inerrant Word of God and the only norm and rule of faith and life, and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church as the correct exposition of the doctrines of the Scriptures;

c. That our Synod again declare that the Brief Statement correctly expresses its doctrinal position; and

d. That our Synod fervently pray the Lord of the Church to keep us faithful in the truth of His Word and preserve us from all error.

Synod adopted these after further resolving "that the Brief Statement be incorporated in the official *Proceedings* of this Convention," for the reason that this document, though repeatedly printed, has never appeared in Synod's official convention report. At the suggestion of President Behnken, the assembled body at this point arose and joined in singing the first and last stanza of the hymn "All Glory Be to God Alone."

In response to suggestions by the Committee on Intersynodical and Doctrinal Matters the Convention empowered Synod's Home Mission Board to grant the Finnish National Church, during the next triennium, such support as may be necessary to maintain a bilingual pastor in the Finnish settlements in Northern Queensland, Australia.

From this same Committee came a resolution that the President appoint a committee to study "matters of marriage, divorce, remarriage, and related subjects," and in conjunction with the Literature Board to consider the publication of a manual dealing with these matters. Synod gave its approval, with the provision that the resulting book should first be submitted to the pastoral conferences before it is printed.

The Committee on Constitutional Matters brought in the recommendation that Synod's new name be: The Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod. The omission of the word "Evangelical" from the new name brought on a protracted debate. In the end the matter was referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

The Committee to which the consideration of Miscellaneous Matters had been assigned submitted its findings in regard to the report submitted to Synod by the National Advisory Emergency Planning Council. Synod adopted the resolution commending the Emergency Planning Council for its work and the resolution thanking all who had supported the Council's efforts by their gifts. To give Synod firsthand information on conditions in the war-stricken areas of Europe, four speakers, all of whom were eyewitnesses, gave heart-rending accounts of what they had seen. The four were: Mr. Louis Lochner, roaming correspondent of the Associated Press; Chaplain (Colonel)

Martin Poch of the Chief of Chaplains Office; Dr. Walter Maier, Lutheran Hour speaker; and President J. W. Behnken. All testified to the incredible physical distress in Europe and the even greater spiritual despair which make help on our part imperative. Synod thereupon authorized the Emergency Planning Council to continue its present program in Europe and Asia, to give preference in extending aid to those of the "household of faith," and to execute its program in such a way as to strengthen and support also other confessional Lutheran groups in Europe which are not associated with our Synod. In order to provide the necessary funds, the Convention gave Synod's Board of Directors authority to inaugurate a program of world relief for the year 1947 to 1948 of two and one-half million dollars. The Emergency Planning Council received the assignment of devising ways and means to gather this sum, while Synod's members and congregations were encouraged by resolution to "co-operate fully in this Christian, charitable, and missionary endeavor."

President Behnken addressed words of welcome to Prof. Herman Preus of the Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., who was attending the session as a visitor.

In view of the great need in Europe, the Committee on Missions offered a resolution that our Church repay the debt of gratitude we owe that continent by "entering upon an aggressive and purposeful missionary program in European lands and providing the necessary Christian literature, theological books, and, as much as possible, manpower for the Seminary and missionary personnel, and by encouraging our pastors and people to extend material aid to the full extent of their ability." Synod adopted this resolution.

The Committee on Elections reported that the following had been elected to synodical offices: Dr. M. F. Kretzmann as Secretary; Mr. W. H. Schlueter as Treasurer; Mr. J. W. Boehne, Jr., Mr. E. J. Gallmeyer, Rev. Paul Koenig, Mr. Martin Salvner, Mr. Theo. Schlake, Dr. Paul Schulz, as members of the Board of Directors.

Adjournment with the Lord's Prayer.

## Thursday, July 24

### MORNING SESSION

The devotional exercises were conducted by President S. H. Beckmann, liturgist, and the Rev. O. H. Schmidt, speaker.

The Committee on the *Synodical Handbook* presented the paragraph on electors for our institutions, 6.101, which with a minor change was adopted. Accordingly, hereafter the electoral boards will consist of a Board of Control with one vote, the President of the respective synodical District (not voting with the Board of Control) one vote, the President of Synod with one vote, and the chairman of the Board for Higher Education with one vote.

Dr. H. A. Grueber read the first part of his essay, "God's Grace in a Century of Ministerial Training."

The Committee on Missions presented the matter of Foreign Missions in the Orient. The Rev. O. H. Schmidt and Dr. F. Brand spoke briefly on the work in this field. Synod thereupon approved the recommendation of the Committee to authorize the engagement of assistance to the Executive Secretary of Foreign Missions and to increase the budget for Foreign Missions; also the recommendation that the Board of Foreign Missions be encouraged to call experienced men to the cities of the Orient "to work among the peoples who are not nationals."

The matter of Mohammedan missions was then taken up, and resolutions were adopted commending and approving the action of the Board for Foreign Missions to begin work among the Mohammedans and to call men for this purpose. The decision as to where and when this work should be undertaken was left in the hands of the Board for Foreign Missions, which is to consider "the representation of those people who are especially interested in this field of work."

Governor Dwight H. Green addressed the Convention. In well-chosen words the Governor of Illinois congratulated Synod on its century of work, especially in the moral and spiritual field and in Christian education, and wished it continued success.

Committee No. 2 presented several resolutions on visual aids and visual education which were adopted. The resolutions stipulated that a department of visual education be established which shall be administered by an elected board of two pastors, two teachers, and three laymen.

Dr. Behnken announced that it would be necessary to have a session of Synod on Friday evening.

The Rev. J. E. Napola then brought greetings from our Finnish brethren in the National Evangelical Lutheran Church.

President Andrew Daniel of the Slovak Ev. Lutheran Church extended greetings from his body.

Dr. Robert Taylor of the American Bible Society spoke on the work of his association, which has been active in the distribution of Bibles since 1816. The American Bible Society now has distributed Bibles in 1,072 languages and dialects. He reported that since the end of World War Two thousands of German Bibles have been sent to Germany and that $7,000,000 at least is necessary to take care of the needs of the German people.

1,000,000 Bibles or Bible portions have been distributed among the Japanese.

He expressed appreciation for the generous financial aid which has been given to this work by Synod and its congregations.

Dr. Behnken then thanked Dr. Taylor and spoke a word of encouragement to our people to continue their financial support of the work of the American Bible Society.

Adjournment.

### AFTERNOON SESSION

The session began with a service in honor of the 3,738 service men and women and the six chaplains of our Synod who gave their lives in the honor of the service of our country. Chaplain (Col.) Martin C. Poch delivered the address. His text was Psalm 112:6. Chaplain R. C. Hohenstein of the U. S. Navy was the liturgist.

After the close of the memorial service followed an impressive ceremony in which Certificates of Achievement were presented to the Army and Navy Commission by Chaplain (Major General) Luther D. Miller, Chief of Chaplains, U. S. A., in behalf of the Army, and by Chaplain (Rear Admiral) W. N. Thomas, Chief of Chaplains, U. S. N., in behalf of the Navy. These representatives and their aides, accompanied by representatives of our Church, had entered the hall in solemn processional. Addresses indicating the high estimate which the Army and Navy places upon the services of our chaplains were made by both Chiefs of Chaplains. The citations were received by Dr. J. W. Behnken as President of Synod, who in turn delivered them to Dr. Paul Dannenfeldt, chairman of the Army and Navy Commission. Both Dr. Behnken and Dr. Dannenfeldt made brief speeches of appreciation.

Synod adopted a list of candidates from which will be elected the members of the boards of control of our synodical schools.

The Committee which had deliberated on the question whether Synod should restudy the position adopted by the 1944 convention in regard to the Boy Scouts recommended that Synod abide by its resolution. After considerable discussion, in which also representatives of the Joint Synod of Wisconsin and Other States had ample opportunity to speak, the motion was made and adopted to refer the matter back to the Committee.

The Committee on Intersynodical and Doctrinal Matters submitted its report in reference to the Missouri Synod's joining the National Lutheran Council. Since there is a difference of opinion among the membership of the Missouri Synod on the issue of joining the National Lutheran Council, since there is no urgency demanding an immediate decision on the question of joining, and since the policies of the National Lutheran Council with reference to its sphere of activity at home and abroad has not yet been clearly defined, the Committee offered a series of resolutions, which, with slight amendments, read as follows:

A. That the Missouri Synod again officially express to the National Lutheran Council its willingness to co-operate in matters agreeing with Synod's principles; and

B. That a committee (two pastors, two laymen, one teacher) be appointed by the *Praesidium*, the College of Presidents, and the Board of Directors to continue the study of the question of our relationship as a participating body in the National Lutheran Council and report its findings to the next Synodical Convention, after having submitted its findings to all pastors and congregations of our Church six months prior to the convention and

C. That the Missouri Synod offer, in agreement with its principles, its full co-operation and support to all groups and churches at home and abroad confessing the Lutheran faith, and that our Synod declare its willingness to exert its influence to the fullest possible extent to uphold and strengthen all true Lutheran elements, and to that end empower the *Praesidium* to take appropriate action.

These resolutions were adopted.

The Committee on Support and Pensions reported. It recommended that the Board of Support and Pensions continue to give out information in regard to annuity gifts and urged our people to invest their funds in this manner. Synod adopted this recommendation. Additional recommendations by the same Committee were: that Synod raise the old-age benefit from $50 to $60 per month; that Synod study the possibility of increasing the interest rate on the individual Pension Fund Reserve Account from other sources aside from the earnings of these accounts; that circuit Visitors and District chairmen of the Board of Support and Pensions do

their part in urging non-participating congregations in their areas to participate in Synod's Pension Plan; and, finally, that also such church workers who are amply provided for be encouraged out of love for the brethren and out of loyalty to Synod and its program to participate in Synod's Pension Plan. These recommendations were adopted.

After adopting a number of paragraphs in the new *Synodical Handbook*, the Convention adjourned.

## Friday, July 25

### MORNING SESSION

The devotional exercises were conducted by District President R. Heyne, liturgist, and District President W. F. Lichtsinn, who spoke on Christian education.

Dr. H. A. Grueber concluded the reading of his essay.

The Committee on Christian Education began its report. Dr. P. Bretscher, chairman of the Board for Parish Education, briefly emphasized the importance of this work for the second century of our Synod's history. The Convention then adopted a resolution urging the Synod in all its parts — District, congregation, family, and individual member — to unite in a determined effort to expand and improve our system of Christian education.

Another resolution inaugurating a Synod-wide Bible study program was adopted. The Rev. O. Feucht, in charge of adult education for Synod, gave a brief survey of the present status of this work and encouraged general participation in this study program.

Thereupon the Convention also adopted resolutions urging a constructive program to strengthen the Christian home and thus to counteract the influences at work in our land that tend to undermine the home and its influence upon our children.

The discussion was interrupted at this point to hear the report of the Election Committee on the balloting for the Boards of Control for Springfield, Milwaukee, St. Paul, Winfield, Portland, Oakland, and Edmonton.

A resolution was now presented and adopted concerning the number of children throughout Synod attending our parochial schools. At the present time only 27.8 per cent of our children of school age are in our parochial schools. In this resolution the objective for the next 25 years was set at having at least 50 per cent of our school-age children in our schools.

The Committee on Nominations presented the candidates for the Board of Control of Porto Alegre, the Board of Directors of Concordia Publishing House, the Board of Appeals, the Board for Young People's Work, the Board for Home Missions in Europe, the Board for Foreign Missions, the Board for Parish Education, and the Board for Visual Aids.

Committee No. 1 presented another section of its report. A resolution was adopted permitting the introduction of a student-counselor program at our higher institutions, subject to the authorization of the Board for Higher Education. Another resolution was adopted concerning the relation of the Fort Wayne Lutheran High School to our preparatory school in that city. The problem of training teachers for our Lutheran high schools was referred to the Board for Higher Education, subject to the existing synodical regulations. The petitions of our schools at Portland and Austin to be raised to the status of junior colleges was referred to the Board for Higher Education, in conjunction with the Board of Directors, for close and intensive study and with power to act.

The following resolutions on physical education at our institutions was adopted:

1. That Synod officially recognize physical education as an integral part of its educational program;

2. That Synod express its desire to supply adequate facilities and equipment for physical education programs;

3. That Synod recognize the position of director of physical education at each institution and direct the Board for Higher Education to authorize the appointment of full-time instructors upon the recommendation of the local Board of Control wherever it finds these to be necessary and warranted;

4. That wherever part-time instructors are authorized, the Board for Higher Education be directed, upon recommendation of the local Board of Control, to approve warranted and necessary adjustments in the teaching load of the instructors involved.

The following resolutions regarding a curricular musical program at our institutions was adopted:

1. That the Board for Higher Education, in consultation with the local Board of Control, be directed to analyze the needs at each preparatory school and the theological seminaries;

2. That the Board for Higher Education be authorized to establish full-time music services on a professor or instructor basis where these appear warranted, and that the Board be further directed to approve load adjustments commensurate with the needs in cases where Synod's interests require such modifications of present staff assignments;

3. That the preparatory schools and seminaries be directed to include estimates of equipments in the budgets which they will submit in June, 1948.

A resolution presented by Committee No. 1 granting Concordia Historical Institute a subsidy for its work was referred to the Fiscal Conference.

Dr. J. W. Behnken read a cable to the Convention which he had received from Chaplain Ressel in which the Universities of Goettingen and Heidelberg expressed their thanks to Synod for establishing theological contact with these institutions through our official representative (Dr. F. E. Mayer). The cablegram ended with the statement that this is the "best contact with America."

Adjournment.

### AFTERNOON SESSION

The session was opened with the reading of 1 Cor. 13 and prayer, led by Dr. E. J. Friedrich, President of the Colorado District.

The Committee on Constitutional Matters presented a number of items for approval in the revision of the *Synodical Handbook*. Concerning the editorship of the LUTHERAN WITNESS and *Der Lutheraner* the provisions were adopted that the editor or editorial committee be appointed by the Faculty of Concordia Seminary (the arrangement with the English District was relinquished by the English District at its Convention of 1945), with the amendment moved by the Convention, "in conjunction with the President and Vice-Presidents of Synod."

The matter concerning the Chinese term question was submitted with the addition of the italicized words: "Be it resolved that the proper name of a specific

Occupying the center of exhibition hall is Concordia Publishing House exhibit, displaying a large variety of publications and equipment. Examining the literature are, l. to r.: Mrs. Katherine Kohlbacher and Miss Emma Gahl of Chicago; Rev. Daniel Poellot, Addison, Ill., and Mrs. and Rev. E. S. Husmann of Dayton, Ohio

As the photographer prepared to take this picture of the Foreign Mission booth, along came Miss Adelheid Mueller, left, who sought out Miss Dorothy Meier. Both are slated to go to China, Miss Mueller as a nurse and Miss Meier as secretary for the Board of Foreign Missions. Incidentally, both are ministers' daughters

idol *in its original pagan sense* ought not to be used in translation of the words Elohim and Theos." The entire recommendation of the Chinese Term Question Committee was now adopted, the remaining paragraphs reading: "That by their natural knowledge of God the heathen know that there is a god, but do not know who the true God is, so as to be able to identify Him; that the linguistic question regarding the specific meaning and use of disputed terms, principally Shen and Shangti, be left for further study and eventual determination to the missionary conference in the China field; and that for the welfare of our China Missions and the peace of the Mother Church the Chinese term question be now considered a closed issue as far as the meetings of the General Synod are concerned."

The recommendations of the special committee appointed by the Praesidium on Deaf and Blind Missions were adopted, providing for divorcing the Mission Among the Blind from the work among the deaf, urging more active work by pastors and congregations in their neighboring State schools for the blind, and setting up a Board for the Blind co-operating with District Home Mission Boards, appointing a director of Missions Among the Blind, and promoting a library and other aids for the blind. The proposal to open a school for the blind was defeated, but the proposal to make more funds available for mission work among the blind was carried.

The Board for the Deaf will now continue its work independently. The Rev. Hugo Gamber reported on the work, and Dr. J. Salvner demonstrated signing methods, accompanying the assembly in signs as it sang the Common Doxology in testimony of the long years of work of Synod among the deaf.

Concerning the salaries of foreign missionaries the Convention resolved "that we encourage the Fiscal Conference to increase the budget for Foreign Missions so that our missionaries shall not suffer want."

The Committee on Doctrinal Matters presented a resolution:

WHEREAS, "A Statement" as such no longer is a basis for discussion according to the "Agreement" reported by the President; and

WHEREAS, The issues raised by "A Statement" and by memorials referring to "A Statement" are being submitted for study to pastors and congregations on the basis of materials supplied by direction of the President; and

WHEREAS, The subject matter is such as to call for time and patience, so that all pastors and laymen may have an opportunity to study the same in a quiet, earnest, and prayerful manner (a course which the Church should always follow); and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that we continue on the foundation of God's Word and God's Word alone; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the President continue to submit to pastors and congregations material for the Scriptural study of the question at issue.

This recommended resolution was carried. A motion to supplement this resolution with five points which had been submitted in Memorial 616 was ruled out of order; an appeal from the decision of the chair was defeated. The chairman of the Floor Committee was quoted as saying that three of the points of the aforementioned memorial were in conformity with the Brief Statement, and the motion was made to incorporate his remarks in the record of the discussion; this motion was lost.

Committee No. 6 now submitted as its proposed name for Synod: "The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod." The amendment to drop "Missouri Synod" was lost. The amendment to place the latter phrase under the former was lost. The motion to adopt the name carried by a two-thirds majority, and the name will be submitted to the congregations for ratification; if more than one third of the congregations dissent, the new name fails of ratification.

In regard to the LUTHERAN WITNESS and *Der Lutheraner*, this Committee recommended that the *Handbook* provisions be upheld and that members of Synod regarding statements in these periodicals to be in error should bring them to the attention of the responsible editors for any necessary corrections.

The question whether a worker retiring at the age of 65 from the service of the Church should receive his pension whether ceasing wholly to work for the Church or not was recommitted. Other pension provisions were adopted, allowing old-age benefits of $720 to workers and $360 to their widows for life, of those who retired after reaching the age of 65 but before Synod's Pension Plan had been adopted; disability provisions were rejected.

Adjournment.

## EVENING SESSION

A special session was called for Friday evening by Dr. Behnken in order to cope with the amount of business. He opened the session with prayer. Dr. Wm. Arndt, who had just returned from Europe after six months in Palestine and Europe, was welcomed. The report of the Committee on Young People's Work was reviewed and resolutions commending its work and that of the Walther League were adopted. Prof. O. H. Theiss of the Walther League addressed the convention briefly. Recommendations were adopted encouraging continued active care for Lutheran students in colleges and universities. Executive Secretary Reuben Hahn of the Student Welfare Commission addressed the assembly.

The Convention turned to matters concerning Christian education. Resolutions were adopted enabling improvements in training and recruiting teachers for the parish schools; declining to adopt a policy concerning religious education in State-supported agencies; and reaffirming the position of 1944 that State aid for parish schools may be accepted in the social service program, but not for the teaching program.

The motion was made and carried to enlarge the Board for North and South American Missions above the level authorized in the new *Handbook*. A number of election returns were announced.

### Result of Elections for Boards of Control

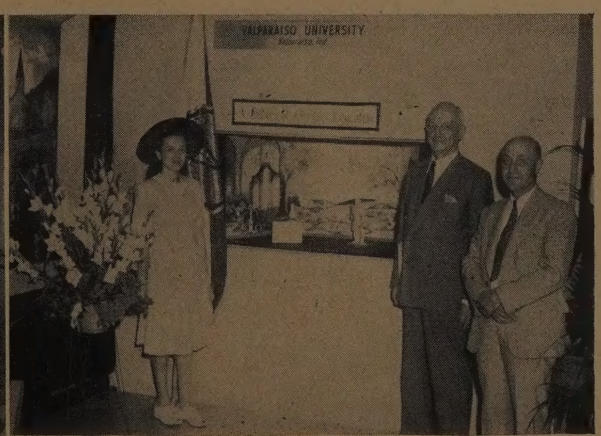
**Concordia Seminary, St. Louis**

| | |
|---|---|
| Rev. Geo. W. Wittmer | Mr. O. P. Brauer |
| Rev. A. Doerffler | Mr. J. Fleischli |
| Rev. John Oppliger | Mr. T. Heinecke |
| Mr. E. Schuettner | Mr. Charles Lottmann |

**Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Ill.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Rev. P. L. Kluender | Mr. F. O. Linsted |
| Teacher A. R. Roschke | Mr. Paul Schulze |
| Mr. Chr. Garbers | |

A Texas couple, Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Reuter, and 21-months-old son, Frederic, view the California-Nevada District exhibit. Mr. Reuter is a delegate from Harlingen, Texas, representing Circuit 11. He is in the feed and seed business. While her husband attends the sessions, Mrs. Reuter is taking a big-city vacation




Standing beside Valparaiso University's revolving panorama, entitled "History of Education," are, left to right: Miss Lois Sohn, in charge of publicity; W. C. Dickmeyer, chairman of the University's Board of Trustees, and John A. Sauerman, treasurer of the Lutheran University Association

**Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Nebr.**

Rev. F. Worthman — Mr. A. Bek
Teacher E. C. Mueller — Mr. O. T. Doerr
Mr. William Sieck — Mr. W. Kupke
Mr. Fred Kolterman

**Concordia College, Fort Wayne, Ind.**

Rev. W. Klausing — Mr. J. H. Schust
Mr. Clarence Brenner — Mr. Truman Hey

**St. Paul's College, Concordia, Mo.**

Rev. O. Tiemann — Mr. H. E. H. Mueller
Mr. Louis Dierker — Mr. L. Pinkepank

**Concordia Collegiate Institute, Bronxville, N. Y.**

Rev. Louis Wagner — Mr. Charles Nehring
Mr. James Kemp — Dr. L. H. W. Rabe

**Concordia College, Austin, Tex.**

Rev. F. H. Stelzer — Mr. Paul Nerger
Mr. R. E. Leschber — Mr. Albert Schulz

The *News Service* of the Board for Parish Education was authorized to be enlarged to a monthly 16-page magazine to be distributed gratis to pastors, teachers, boards of education, and students. The appropriation of $6,000 annually was made subject to the Fiscal Conference.

A Department of Public Relations was authorized, to be administered by a board appointed by the Board of Directors in consultation with the Praesidium, which is to set up an office in a principal city of the United States and adequately implement a program of public relations through an executive secretary and staff, in order to correlate District press committees, present the Lutheran viewpoint on issues of the day, and represent the interests of the Church in legislative developments. The matter of labor relations was referred to a special committee to be appointed by the President.

Adjournment.

## Saturday, July 26

### MORNING SESSION

The devotional exercises were led by District President O. H. Hoyer, liturgist. District President Dr. C. A. Behnke spoke of Christian charities. He emphasized the fact that our Synod owes a great debt to the sainted Rev. Wm. Loehe, who did so much for us during the formative years of our organization, and that we now have the opportunity to repay a part of this debt by looking after the needy in Europe.

Committee No. 14 continued its report. Synod resolved to allow the sum of $5,000 to the Synodical Radio Committee for the coming triennium, subject to the approval of the Fiscal Conference. It also resolved that this Committee be consulted by all other boards and committees who may engage in radio work and who are supported by synodical funds. With reference to Station KFUO Synod expressed its sincere thanks to all who have in any way helped to further the work of this station. An annual subsidy of $18,000 was granted to Station KFUO, subject to the approval of the Fiscal Conference.

For various reasons set forth in a resolution adopted by Synod the request to establish the office of an official synodical architect was declined.

The request to have an executive secretary of social welfare was given into the hands of a survey committee to be appointed by the President of Synod, which is to report its findings to the Board of Directors. If the findings so warrant, the Board of Directors was given power to act.

The convention unanimously adopted a resolution commending the Army and Navy Commission for its excellent work and thanking all those who have so generously supported its work. It was also resolved that the program of this Commission be continued and that, on account of the nature of the work, the Commission henceforth have five pastors in its membership, besides the two laymen.

President A. O. Fuerbringer of our Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Nebr., read the first part of his essay, in which he showed how our Church's high estimate of the laity logically made it necessary to provide for the thorough indoctrination of the laity through Christian schools.

Synod acted on a number of matters dealing with pensions and support. Thus it declined to give benefits under the Pension Plan to dependents of pastors and teachers who die before the age of sixty-five, since the Support Fund takes care of these cases. It further declined to grant the old-age benefit to workers who retire at fifty-five. Workers who continue in office after reaching sixty-five were held by Synod to continue their pension payments. Since Synod's Board of Directors have formulated a plan to provide social security for employees of Synod not covered by the present Pension Plan, the convention declined to instruct the Board of Support and Pensions to engage in a similar endeavor. Mr. J. W. Boehne, Jr., member of Synod's Board of Directors, explained the details of the plan to Synod.

The Committee on Elections reported the names of the men elected to serve on the Boards of Control of our four schools in Brazil and Argentina. On Synod's Board of Appeals were elected: Revs. E. Bertermann, H. J. Bouman, Paul Koehneke, Martin E. Mayer, E. Schnedler, W. C. Wangerin, and the laymen: Paul Brandt, E. C. Jacobs, W. Kuhlman, Theo. Markworth, and Carl J. Thrun. Re-elected on the Board of Directors of Concordia Publishing House were: Alfred T. Leimbach, A. J. Meyer, and R. C. Obermann.

In the matter of appeals to Synod the Convention adopted a committee report which refused to give further consideration to the case of Mr. J. F. Westmeier. The Pannkoke appeal was referred back to the respective committee.

The Committee on Intersynodical and Doctrinal Matters submitted the following resolutions after considering the Report of the Committee on Doctrinal Unity:

1. That our Synod gratefully acknowledge all efforts that have been made toward achieving doctrinal unity, and rejoice over any progress that, under the blessing of God, has been reported; and

2. That Synod declare that it is not ready at this time to enter into fellowship with the A. L. C.; and

3. That Synod declare its willingness to continue doctrinal discussion with the A. L. C.; and

4. That Synod instruct its Praesidium to again appoint a Committee on Doctrinal Unity; and

5. That Synod request its constituent Districts to sponsor, wherever possible, intersynodical conferences, preferably in smaller groups.

These resolutions were adopted, but another series of paragraphs, the first of which suggested the withdrawal of the 1938 resolutions as a basis for establishing fellowship with the American Lutheran Church, led to such a prolonged debate that the time for adjournment arrived before any resolution could be adopted.

The session closed with the Lord's Prayer.

## Monday, July 28

### MORNING SESSION

The devotions were read by District President E. A. Heckmann. District President A. Zeile spoke on Christian giving.

After the adoption of the minutes of the previous session a resolution of sympathy was adopted to be sent to President Truman on the death of his mother. Prof. A. O. Fuerbringer concluded the reading of his essay.

The Committee on Finances continued its report. A number of resolutions were adopted, including the expression of Synod's gratitude to the Board of Directors for its work during the past three years and to the officers of Synod for their efforts in promoting the special offerings and collections since the Saginaw Convention. In regard to the Centennial Thankoffering the following resolution was unanimously adopted, which we print in full because of its importance:

WHEREAS, By the grace of God our Church is celebrating her Centennial during the present year; and

WHEREAS, Our Church has unanimously decided that a thankoffering shall be gathered during the Centennial year to enable the Church to accelerate her progress of expansion as she stands upon the threshold of the second century; and

WHEREAS, The members of our Church are now in the process of bringing this thankoffering to the Lord; therefore be it

*Resolved:*

1. That we thank God for the truly generous participation in the Centennial Thankoffering that has been noted among many individuals and congregations; and

2. That Synod urge all its members, clergy and laity, who have not yet shared in this common privilege and responsibility, to cooperate fully in this necessary extension program of our Church; and

3. That the remaining months of 1947 be used for a concerted effort to attain the established goal.

The convention appropriated $200,000 for the remodeling of the recently purchased Synodical building.

Mr. W. H. Schlueter, Treasurer of Synod, was given a hearty vote of thanks for his efficient and faithful service.

Committee No. 1 reported on a number of items. One of these was concerning adjustments at our teachers' colleges in order to speed relief in the present acute teacher shortage. The resolution reads as follows:

1. That the Board for Higher Education be directed to study the entire teacher-training program and the problems of our teachers' colleges in the light of current demands;

2. That the Board for Higher Education be instructed to take immediate action on the basis of its findings, even if such action involves suspension of part or all of the High School Department at the teachers' colleges;

3. That the Board for Higher Education be directed to authorize any necessary staff adjustments, including election of additional college professors, if such action becomes necessary as a result of the Board's findings;

4. That the Board for Higher Education be empowered to recommend to the Board of Directors payment of properly certified railroad-fare and room subsidies which might become chargeable to Synod as a result of the matriculation at Seward, Nebr., of students who attempt to enroll in the College Department at River Forest, or of River Forest students who cannot be accommodated in the dormitories there during the existing emergency;

5. That the Board for Higher Education be authorized to co-operate with interested Districts in exploring the possibility of setting up separate boarding high schools on or near the campus at Seward or River Forest. It is understood, however, that any specific agreements or actions proposed under authorization require prior approval by Synod in its Convention in 1950;

6. That the Board for Higher Education be directed to authorize any curricular adjustments which might be made necessary at the ministerial preparatory schools by increased enrollments of teacher-training students;

7. That the Board for Higher Education be directed to study the possibility of developing a subsidy arrangement with Lutheran high schools for the production of acceptable candidates for matriculation at the freshman college levels of our colleges at River Forest and Seward and to report its conclusions to the next Convention of Synod.

The St. Louis Seminary was granted two new professorships, the Springfield Seminary one. All other requests for new professorships were referred to the Board for Higher Education for study "in the light of Synod's action in the matter of ranking professors, with power to act."

Synod gave its approval to an expansion program at our preparatory school in Edmonton.

A request to change the entrance age at our Springfield Seminary was declined.

The last part of this session was taken up with the report of the Committee on Intersynodical and Doctrinal Matters. The discussion which followed was to be continued in the afternoon session.

Adjournment.

## AFTERNOON SESSION

In the memorial service in honor of the 151 pastors, 47 teachers, and a number of laymen prominent in our Church who entered our eternal home since Synod's last Convention, Dr. J. H. C. Fritz was the speaker. Dr. Theo. Engelder acted as liturgist.

The convention resolved to extend this afternoon's session until 6:30.

The committee to which the Saginaw Convention in 1944 assigned the task of considering the regulations in the new *Synodical Handbook* dealing with "Appeals" reported that the respective paragraphs were basically sound and with slight changes would assure fair and impartial trials. The Convention adopted the suggested changes.

The Convention re-acted to the Australian brethrens' plea that Synod support their mission enterprise in New Guinea with men and funds, by referring the request to the Board for Foreign Missions with power to act and that funds be made available for this mission.

An air mail edition of the LUTHERAN WITNESS for our missionaries in foreign lands received the approval of Synod.

Since it is essential that our foreign missionaries remain in close contact with the home Church, the Convention instructed its mission boards to make a careful study of the subscriptions of our missionaries and to supply the professional magazines upon request.

The Convention gave Mr. Chas. Burde a rising vote of thanks for his many years of faithful service on the General Church Extension Board and instructed its secretary to prepare an appropriate written expression of Synod's gratitude. Mr. Burde has requested to be relieved of his duties on the Board because of advanced years.

Synod encouraged the Missionary Board of the Synodical Conference to follow an aggressive missionary policy in Africa and resolved more funds should be made available for this purpose.

In order to produce and translate Christian and theological literature, for which there is a dire need in European countries, South America, and the Orient, Synod resolved that the Board for Foreign Missions be asked to co-operate and hire translators as needed, and also produce new material when feasible. Synod's Board of Directors is to allocate sufficient funds from the Centennial Thankoffering for this work.

The Convention directed its attention to matters pertaining to Christian education. It encouraged the Board for Parish Education to continue the Lutheran Education Week, made the sum of approximately $2,500 per year available for this project, and urged its congregations to participate more widely in the Lutheran education movement. All congregations of Synod were urged to establish boards of Christian education to further the ends of Christian education.

Congregations were encouraged to reach the unchurched by means of the Sunday school and other educational enterprises. To make these more effective, Synod recommended the expansion of the teacher-training program and the exercise of unusual care in selecting Sunday school teachers in view of the great importance of their work.

Additional funds sufficient to engage an assistant editor of Sunday school literature were provided. Since the program of Christian education is in need of promotional materials, Synod made available to the Board of Parish Education $35,000 per year so that such materials can be given to our congregations without cost to them.

Further resolutions in the field of Christian education included the establishment of a Lutheran Educational Measurement Bureau. Moreover, $3,000 per annum were made available to the Board for Parish Education for research in connection with its work. The establishment of parish education workshops was recommended to the Districts.

The supervision of the Lutheran high school and the adult education program was made a responsibility of the District boards for parish education. Each District, wherever possible, was encouraged by Synod to engage a director of Christian education who is to function under the District Board of Education.

The attention of congregations was called to the fact that they should exercise Christian love when calling teachers from another congregation.

As Synod brought its consideration of the resolutions submitted by the Committee on Christian Education to a close, it expressed its thanks to God for the high schools already established in our midst and urged its congregations to establish additional schools of this type wherever possible. A vote of thanks was extended to the Board for Parish Education for its conscientious work.

The Convention, after hearing the Committee on Publications in the matter, resolved that Concordia Publishing House continue its present policy with respect to the price of books and promotional literature and that it increase or decrease discounts in connection with its Board of Directors. The Convention did not act favorably on an unprinted memorial asking that Concordia Publishing House be placed on a nonprofit basis.

An unprinted memorial's request for enlargement and more frequent appearance of the LUTHERAN WITNESS, together with the Mission Board's desire for a co-editor on the paper, was referred to the faculty of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and the President and Vice-Presidents of Synod, with power to act.

In the course of the afternoon the Committee on Elections brought in the results of the recent balloting. The membership of the Board for Foreign Missions consists of the Revs. Dr. Wm. Arndt, Herbert Berner, Dr. H. A. O. Keinath, R. G. Lange, Paul Mehl, and T. W. Strieter; Messrs. Paul G. Boumann, Lawrence S. Holt, Louis Prange, Theo. Struckmeyer, and H. F. Voertmann. Members for the Board for Parish Education are: Revs. Dr. Paul M. Bretscher, Dr. C. T. Spitz, and Paul W. Streufert; Teachers George Brandt, Dr. Paul W. Lange, and H. F. C. Roehl; and Messrs. John Goodbrake, Robert E. Steinmeyer, and J. C. Wegner. The new Board for Visual Aids consists of: Revs. H. C. Bielenberg and Karl Maier; Teachers Prof. C. T. Brandhorst and Walter F. Steinberg; and Messrs. Paul Dahlmann, T. G. Eggers, and Henry Stoeppelwerth. The slates of candidates elected for the Board for Missions to the Deaf and for the Board for Missions to the Blind were likewise reported.

The convention continued with the discussion of a recommendation of Committee No. 3 concerning the resolutions on Lutheran Union of 1938.

The following amendment was made and seconded: "God commands every Christian in Jer. 23: 'He that hath My Word, let him speak My Word faithfully.' The Confessions of the Church and also our Brief Statement are means through which the Missouri Synod speaks God's Word faithfully. Members of the Fellowship Committee of A. L. C. have now informed us that their Declaration, a part of the 1938 platform, expresses a different doctrine on the important doctrines of conversion and election than is taught in our Brief Statement. Since on the basis of this admission and on the basis of the proved ambiguity of the Declaration we can now no longer speak God's Word faithfully through the Declaration, Synod declares that the document does not express its doctrinal position."

It was pointed out to the floor that the opinion attributed to the A. L. C. Committee was disavowed by the A. L. C. commissioners, as quoted by our Committee on Church Union in its report, page 380. The amendment was defeated.

Several motions to table the resolution were defeated, and further consideration was deferred to a subsequent session.

Election results of miscellaneous boards resulted: Board for Home Missions in Europe, the incumbent slate; Board for Support and Pensions, the incumbents with the addition of Rev. Carl Pfotenhauer and Messrs. Edgar Strieter and George Halter; Church Extension Board, the incumbents and Mr. John P. Luecke; Board for North and South American Missions, Pastors E. T. Bernthal, Harry E. Olsen, E. H. Buchheimer, Henry Blanke, Walter H. Storm, Messrs. Ferd. Korneffel, Paul Vetter, E. T. Schumm, Otto Steinwart; Selections Committee for 1950 Nominations Committee, the California slate.

Further provisions of the Pension and Support Plan were adopted, clarifying the definition of retirement and the ceilings on support received under the plan.

The Committee on the O. H. Pannkoke appeal presented resolutions which were

adopted, declaring an error through oversight in the 1944 procedure, adopting the report of the 1944 committee, and declaring the case closed after filing a statement by the officers of the English District. Dr. O. H. Pannkoke expressed his thanks to the chairman for the convention's consideration.

Adjournment with the Lord's Prayer.

## Tuesday, July 29

### MORNING SESSION

President E. L. Roschke of the Western District in the devotional service delivered the address on the topic "Spiritual Growth and Our Church's Youth." Pastor P. Freiburger was the liturgist.

Synod adopted several sections in the proposed *Synodical Handbook*. In view of the changes in the national defense setup, the Army and Navy Commission will henceforth be known as "The Armed Services Commission." After the convention had adopted a resolution that the by-laws in the new *Handbook* supersede all previous by-laws, the Committee on the Revision of the *Handbook* was given a vote of thanks.

Synod took action on a number of matters submitted by the Committee on Missions. It approved the transfer of church property to the congregations in foreign fields, provided they have a constitution in agreement with the Word of God and acceptable to the Board for Foreign Missions, that the congregation has demonstrated its ability to function as a congregation, and that the congregation has sufficient financial strength to meet more than half of its expenses.

The editoral staff of the LUTHERAN WITNESS received instructions to give additional space to the boards for missions for publicity. The Department of Visual Education is to formulate a program of missionary education by means of visual aids, such as movies, slides, and filmstrips, the maximum distribution of which among our schools and churches is to be guaranteed by supplying them at the lowest possible cost.

Encouragement was given the Fiscal Conference to substantially increase the annual mission budget for home and foreign fields.

Concordia Publishing House was urged to issue as soon as possible the *Child's Garden of Songs*, a volume of children's hymns which is articulated and integrated with a complete course in primary religion. A request for the creation of a separate committee of liturgics was declined.

The matter of participation by Synod in the control, maintenance, and support of the Ginasio Concordia High School, Porto Alegre, Brazil, was referred to the Board of Directors for further study in consultation with the Mission Board and other interested groups, with power to act. Dr. Walter Kunstmann, pastor of Christ Church, which owns the school, was given permission to gather funds from our church membership, but these are to be held by Synod's Board of Directors until all matters concerning the school have been adjusted.

The request that college credits be allowed for training for youth work was referred to the Board for Higher Education.

The memorial asking equitable allowances for rentals on residences personally owned by professors was referred to the Board of Directors.

A like action was taken in regard to the memorial that teachers trained in our schools be bound by contract to render at least three years of service to the Church after graduation.

The convention adopted a resolution to the effect that the present arrangements between Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and the Board of Governors of the Lutheran Laymen's League with regard to Dr. Walter A. Maier be continued.

Although Synod at this convention has adopted a new procedure for electing teachers at its schools, it resolved that all election procedures which have been initiated prior to this Centennial Convention shall be completed by the electoral college which has served the school during the past triennium, and such elections shall be conducted in accordance with the regulations formerly in force.

The present retirement plan for professors is to remain in operation.

In respect to Valparaiso University, Synod declined to act in conformity with memorials which asked that direct synodical help be extended to this school.

The request of our brethren in Argentina that Synod approve co-education at the school in Crespo was granted. The petition that Synod furnish organs for their theological seminaries at Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Porto Alegre, as well as the petition that Synod permit co-education at Concordia High School and College, St. Paul, Minn., were referred to the Board for Higher Education with power to act.

The Convention acknowledged the right of Synod or its Districts to receive into membership Negro congregations, pastors, and teachers in good standing. It adopted, however, a recommendation that in this connection congregations, both white and Negro, exercise discretion, wisdom, and love. The enrollment of colored students in our synodical colleges is to be left in the hands of the respective boards of control.

After a debate running through several sessions, Synod finally adopted the following four paragraphs:

1. That Synod declare that the 1938 resolutions shall no longer be considered as a basis for the purpose of establishing fellowship with the American Lutheran Church; and

2. That Synod encourage its Committee on Doctrinal Unity to continue discussion on a soundly Scriptural basis, using the Brief Statement and such other documents as are already in existence or as it may be necessary to formulate; and

3. That Synod's Committee on Doctrinal Unity be instructed to make every effort to arrive ultimately at one document which is Scriptural, clear, concise, and unequivocal; and

4. That Synod urge all its members to give thorough and prayerful study to the problems of Lutheran Unity for the purpose of achieving greater clarity in its own midst.

During the debate it was stated by speakers favoring the report that "the union resolutions of 1938 contained no false doctrines," that the report "has nothing to do with passing judgment on any doctrine." Chairman Schwermann of the Committee, in response to a direct question, said, "Nothing is said about rescinding them" (the 1938 union resolution), and in reply to another remark Dr. J. W. Behnken said, "There has been no rescission of these resolutions," amplified later by the explanation that he meant "the exact, authentic text of the 1938 transactions." The importance of these comments was pointed out by Dr. Theo. Graebner, who stressed that no reports of a rescission of our doctrinal stand should go out with the news of the "withdrawal" of the 1938 platform. A motion was immediately made from the floor, which was unanimously adopted:

> *That we express our sincere desire that true Scriptural unity with the American Lutheran Church and other Lutheran bodies may be achieved and that we humbly pray God for His guidance and blessing in this matter.*

The Rev. W. C. Birkner, Prof. E. M. Plass, Mr. H. J. Meier were re-elected to serve on the Student Service Commission.

The committee report on the Melcher-Owensville case was referred back to the committee.

Dr. C. S. Mundinger, President of St. John's College, Winfield, Kans., who had just returned from Europe, conveyed to the convention the greetings of our chaplains in Germany. He gave a graphic account of conditions in Europe, especially in Germany.

In a ceremony immediately before the close of the session Dr. Henry Grueber inducted the President and the Vice-Presidents of Synod into office. Adjournment with the Table Prayer.

### AFTERNOON SESSION

The devotions were led by Dr. J. W. Behnken. A number of floor committees submitted their final reports to the Synod, including resolutions of thanks to the Synodical Press Committee for its work and the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau for extending the convenience of its offices to the Synodical Press Committee without charge.

The Committee on Doctrinal Unity concluded its report. Among the various items adopted was the reaffirmation of the Saginaw resolutions on prayer fellowship and the suggestion of further study of this subject by our congregations. Synod also adopted the resolution on selective fellowship cautioning all congregations against forcing the issue "and establishing any form of outside fellowship (prayer, pulpit, or altar fellowship), since this would militate against the law of love and the spirit of fellowship." A vote of thanks was also extended to the Committee on Doctrinal Unity for its diligent and conscientious work and the "Praesidium for its painstaking care that the pure doctrine of God's Word and Scriptural practice may be preserved among us."

It was announced that the Fiscal Conference would meet September 24—25 in St. Louis.

Regarding the Boy Scout question it was resolved "that the President of Synod appoint three men who, in conjunction with the Bureau of Information and the Board for Young People's Work, restudy the matter and report to the next Convention." A resolution to reconsider the Saginaw resolutions on Boy Scouts was stricken from the report by vote of the Convention.

The work of the American Bible Society

was heartily endorsed, and our congregations are urged to grant annual financial support through their District treasuries to the organization, and the Board of Directors was empowered "to make grants to the emergency fund of the American Bible Society."

In order to assist the Lutheran Hour in continuing its program of expansion our congregations are urged to give energetic and systematic support to the International Lutheran Hour.

The Board of Directors was authorized to establish a synodical Building and Loan Department or substitute plan to amplify funds for missionary expansion. The Convention agreed to set a new ceiling of $20,000 on loans from the Church Extension Fund made without special consent of the Board of Directors.

Committee No. 14 proposed resolutions of gratitude: for the labors of a number of departed servants of the Church; for the leadership of President J. W. Behnken; for the services of the Praesidium and officials of Synod; for the services of the Centennial Convention Committee, of the congregations of the Chicago area, and all others who contributed to the program or care of the Convention.

The Committee on Excuses presented its report. By a rising vote the Convention expressed its gratitude to Vice-President Grueber and other retiring officials. President Werfelmann communicated the thanks of the hotel management.

Dr. M. F. Kretzmann, Secretary of Synod, announced that 20 telegrams and letters of greetings to the Centennial Convention had arrived: from the Rev. Benjamin Schlueter, president of the Synodical Conference; the Rev. John Brenner, president of the Wisconsin Synod; Dr. F. E. Mayer, Frankfurt, Germany; the Rev. W. H. Schweppe in the name of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Nigeria; Milton Eggerding, president of the Northern Illinois Walther League; Mrs. Raymond Roehrkasse, secretary of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League; the Rev. D. Meiser, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria; Dr. Eugen Gerstenmaier, Stockholm, Sweden; Dr. Martin Niemoeller of the Evangelical Church in Germany; Chaplain Max Beck, Oceanside, Calif.; the Rev. Theo. Nickel, North Albury, South Australia; the Rev. F. Hassold, vice-president of the South Australian District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia; Dr. P. O. Bersell, President of the Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod of North America; the Rev. W. Bente, Immanuel Church, Stuttgart, Germany; the Rev. J. A. Aasgaard, president of the Norwegian Synod, Minneapolis, Minn.; Dr. L. M. Stavig, president of the American Lutheran Conference; the Rev. W. J. Michael, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Denmark; Irene Bergen, secretary of the Ontario District of the Walther League; the Rev. T. Lutze, secretary of the Pastoral Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia; and Carl G. Loeber, Van Nuys, Calif.

Dr. Behnken concluded the Convention with a brief address stressing the unforgettable and inspirational nature of the Convention and summoning the delegates to renewed consecration. He dismissed the delegates at 3:45 P. M. with the Apostolic Benediction, after they had joined in "Now Thank We All Our God" and the Lord's Prayer.

## First Synodical Convention in a Hotel

The first synodical convention in a hotel — may not be a strong talking point for this convention, but for the Centennial Convention Committee it posed new problems, and many of them.

**Rev. A. H. Werfelmann**
**President, Northern Illinois District**
Host of the Convention

Officially appointed by Rev. J. W. Behnken, D. D., President of Synod, in the fall of 1944, the Committee under the general chairmanship of Rev. Arthur H. Werfelmann, President of the Northern Illinois District, almost immediately went to work, knowing that scarcity of room and materials would necessitate precipitation. Hotel reservations were made a year and a half ago. At that, the customary time for synodical conventions, the latter part of June, had to be relinquished because no hotel space was available.

For the last four years the Northern Illinois District has collected five cents per communicant member per year in order to defray its share of convention expenses, which are expected to be in the neighborhood of $40,000. Publicity for the convention will run into thousands of dollars according to the Committee on Arrangements. On Wednesday, July 23, a full-page advertisement will appear in the *Chicago Tribune*, as well as advertisements in the other newspapers, to publicize the Convention and the Centennial celebration at Soldier's Field next Sunday.

Members of the Committee are the Rev. Bernard H. Hemmeter, pastor of Mount Olive, vice-chairman; William Zeiter, member of St. John's Church, La Grange, Ill., and president of the International Walther League, convention manager; Rev. Adelbert R. Kretzmann, pastor of St. Luke Church, chairman of publicity; Norbert A. Fleischer, in charge of equipment and services, ably assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Vetter; John A. Sauerman, member of the Church of St. John the Divine, in charge of finances; F. O. Linstead, treasurer, member of Park Ridge Church; E. G. Becker, St. John's School, secretary; Rev. Martin Pfotenhauer and Paul L. Kluender, committee members at large; A. W. Huge, synodical auditor, St. Louis, Rev. M. Piehler, district stewardship secretary, advisory members; and Rev. E. H. Voss of Saginaw, Mich., holdover member from the previous synodical convention.

# Centennial at Soldier Field

By DR. W. G. POLACK

## An Unforgettable Experience

The contrast between 1847 and 1947 was most apparent on the Sunday of the Convention, when the delegates and Greater Chicago Lutheranism gathered at Soldier Field. More than twice as many people as the little town of Chicago held 100 years ago were gathered in this vast stadium to celebrate our synodical Centennial. Cloudless skies arched the scene. A nice breeze tempered the warm rays of the July sun. Jet planes occasionally zoomed above, and an occasional plane circled the field, pulling a long streamer advertising a popular product.

At one end of the field a choir of adults and children with almost as many people as were included in Synod at the time of its founding was seated behind a huge pulpit, banked by our country's flags and those of the United Nations. High above the choir towered a huge gold cross. Quite a contrast to the little wooden church in which Synod was organized and to the transportation facilities of the fathers, who came on foot and horseback, by wagon, coach, and boat.

Long before the time set for starting the crowds began to stream in. Special busses from outlying towns and special railroad trains brought many. Automobile license plates from all parts of the country were in evidence inside the parking lot and outside. Each person received a beautiful printed program of 16 pages, in two colors, carrying the order of service and significant annotations which had been prepared by the Rev. A. R. Kretzmann, head of the Arrangements Committee. Professional and amateur photographers were busy everywhere taking pictures and movies.

Promptly at the stroke of three the chimes rang out. During the next half hour, while the people were crowding in, the special children's choir, under the direction of Mr. John G. Rieck, gave a concert of sacred song, which was carried to every part of the field by the public address system.

At 3:30, to the music of the organ played by Mr. Carl Halter, the delegates, four abreast, headed by the officiants and the President of Synod, marched across the center of the arena — an impressive sight — reaching from one end of the field to the other.

The service began with the singing of "Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord." Perhaps never before in the history of our Lutheran Church was this and the other hymns of the service sung by as many people at one time. After the Lection, read by the Rev. B. H. Hemmeter, came the confession of the Nicene Creed. How it would have stirred the heart of the great Athanasius if he had been able to hear the Creed for which he had stood against the

**L. L. L. Fellowship Banquet, July 19, 1947. 1,000 in attendance**
ELBERT JORDAN PHOTO

world confessed by 50,000 people, more than 1,600 years later, in a land unknown in his day and in a language still to be created!

After the singing of the Battle Hymn of the Reformation the mammoth choir presented the Festival Cantata, in song and recitative, prepared jointly by Mr. Gerhard Schroth, director of the choir, and the Rev. A. R. Kretzmann. The cantata included a goodly number of our finest chorals and ended with the deeply touching "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones."

Dr. J. W. Behnken's sermon, extracts of which will appear in a later issue, based on Luke 12:48 b, followed. An attentive audience testified to the impressiveness of his message.

The singing of Luther's version of the Lord's Prayer, in which the audience alternated with the children's and adult choirs, came as a fitting response to the sermon and was expressive of the firm trust with which our people look to the future.

The closing Collects were read by the Rev. A. H. Werfelmann, who then concluded the historic service with the Apostolic Benediction.

Unforgettable? Yes. Inspiring? Yes. An auspicious beginning of the second century of our synodical history.

## Lutheran Laymen Hold Largest Convention

The largest convention in the history of the Lutheran Laymen's League was assured when 500 delegates and visitors had registered at the Stevens Hotel, Chicago, by the afternoon of Friday, July 18. In his presidential address A. T. Wilson of Detroit, Mich., pointed out that since the day the League was organized, 30 years ago, Synod has entered a period of transition from a simple established society to a complex form of living in which people are constantly adapting themselves to new circumstances and new surroundings.

"There is," he declared, "increased apathy and uncertainty and a tendency to draw within ourselves as a way of self-protection and possible peace of mind. In these confused times, with the shadow of fear engulfing much of our western world, our conviction becomes even more fixed that the answer for us and our children as citizens and as Christians lies in the destiny of our Lutheran Church. It is in this atmosphere that we celebrate our thirtieth anniversary and look forward into the second century of our Church."

The speaker for the devotional service was Dr. Theodore Hoyer of the St. Louis Seminary, who addressed the convention on the theme "Go Forward" (Ex. 14:15). He emphasized that the L. L. L. should stand fast, but not stand still.

Following Dr. Hoyer's sermon, Herman Lenz welcomed the delegates, and Jack Fleischli, St. Louis, chairman of the Executive Committee of the National L. L. L., responded in behalf of the delegates. Mr. Wilson then introduced one of the two surviving founders of the Lutheran Laymen's League, Fred C. Pritzlaff of Milwaukee. Mr. Pritzlaff spoke briefly on the blessings of the League to the Church.

T. G. Eggers, executive secretary of the L. L. L., called attention to the 43,000 members that have been enrolled on the League roster, to bring the grand total of local men's clubs to an all-time high of 1,111.

Mr. Eggers also stated that two more scholarships to Valparaiso University will be made available this year to bring the total to ten students now in attendance at Valparaiso on L. L. L. scholarships. He closed his report by emphasizing the growing responsibilities of the League with respect to both current projects as well as those that are anticipated. He particularly referred to the L. L. L. Memorial Administration Building for Valparaiso University, for which $500,000 will be raised by the League.

A joint luncheon of the L. L. L. and the Lutheran Women's Missionary League at the Continental Hotel marked the noon hour, after which the laymen assembly heard addresses by Rev. J. W. Behnken, D. D., President of Synod; the Rev. H. B. Roepe, New Orleans; Arthur Kron, of the Grotham Advertising Agency; Eugene Bernahl, of Pan-American Radio, and Dr. W. A. Maier, Lutheran Hour speaker, who has just returned from Europe.

## The Women's Missionary League Convenes

Approximately 200 delegates, 44 officers, and 600 guests attended the opening session of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League at the Continental Hotel, Friday, July 18. A devotional service was conducted by Prof. G. Christian Barth, D. D., president of Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Ill., as speaker and by the Rev. W. J. Danker, pastor of Trinity Church, West Chicago, as liturgist.

Mrs. A. Preisinger, president of the Northern Illinois District of the League, welcomed the convention, and League His-

**Newly Elected Officers of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League**
Left to right: Mrs. R. H. C. Meyer, St. Louis, recording secretary; Mrs. A. Preisinger, Chicago, first vice-president; Mrs. Sadie F. Roehrs, Fort Wayne, president; Mrs. M. Hunter, Colorado, second vice-president; Mrs. R. Roehrkasse, Nebraska, corresponding secretary; Mrs. C. A. Haas, Kansas, financial secretary. Mrs. A. H. Meitler, Oklahoma, treasurer, was unable to be present as this picture was taken

torian Mrs. Sadie Fulk Roehrs of Fort Wayne, responded, following which Mrs. Otto Schmitt of St. Louis, submitted her presidential report on the activity of the League since its last convention.

Meetings were conducted and meals served in the grand ballroom of the hotel. During the Friday noon meal Dr. L. Meyer, executive director of the Synodical Emergency Planning Council, addressed the convention on "Orphanages in Europe," twelve in number and located in Germany, Poland, Finland, and France, serving more than 500 children.

A number of new projects were under consideration by the League, as this issue went to press last Friday, among them the erection of a chapel and seminary at Monterey, Mexico; the erection of a chapel in the Panama Canal Zone, and the erection of a bungalow on the St. Louis Seminary campus for returned missionaries studying at the Seminary.

# *Miscellaneous*

## Ordinations and Installations

(Authorized by the Proper Officials)

### CANDIDATES

**Ordained and Commissioned:**

*Bowles, Ray,* in Immanuel Church, Houston, Tex., as missionary in Havana, Cuba, by Elmo E. Miertschin, 6. Sun. p. Tr., July 13.

*Kettler, Earl C.,* as missionary in Hot Springs, N. Mex., by Paul F. Stueckler, 6. Sun. p. Tr., July 13.

*Mack, Valentine,* ordained in Trinity Church, Sanborn, Minn., by Chr. Mack, 3. Sun. p. Tr., June 22, and commissioned as missionary near Sheboygan, Wis., by Ed. H. Schmidt, 5 Sun. p. Tr., July 6.

**Ordained and Installed:**

*Brauer, Martin W.,* as assistant pastor in Immanuel Congregation, Grand Rapids, Mich., by W. C. Wangerin, 6. Sun. p. Tr., July 13.

*Gerken, Francis H.,* in St. John's Congregation, McCook, Nebr., by H. C. Loesel, 7. Sun. p. Tr., July 20.

*Hess, Ralph,* in Immanuel Congregation, Tucumcari, N. Mex., by Charles E. Wedig, 6. Sun. p. Tr., July 13.

*Heumann, Arnold,* in Holy Cross Congregation, Oxford, and in the Congregation at Imlay City, Mich., by Walter C. Gerken, 6. Sun. p. Tr., July 13.

*Meier, Robert E.,* in Trinity Congregation, Guymon, Okla., by Andrew Sabo, 6. Sun. p. Tr., July 13.

*Skibbe, Cecil H.,* in Trinity Congregation, Cissna Park, Ill., by Paul E. Meyer, 6. Sun. p. Tr., July 13.

*Wackler, Myron,* in St. Luke's Congregation, Allens Grove, Ill., by O. A. Borchelt, 6. Sun. p. Tr., July 13.

*Zeeb, Otto T.,* in Holy Cross Congregation, Glenwood Springs, Colo., by M. E. Mayer, 6. Sun. p. Tr., July 13.

### PASTORS

**Commissioned:**

*Breiholz, Edwin A.,* in Holy Cross Church, Davenport, Iowa, as missionary in Bettendorf, Iowa, by P. W. Happel, 6. Sun. p. Tr., July 13.

*Nauss, Milton J.,* in Bethany Church, Trenton, N. J., as missionary in the English District by O. T. McRee, Quasi, Sun., Apr. 13.

**Installed:**

*Happel, E. H.,* as associate pastor in Immanuel Congregation, Dundee, Ill., by E. H. H. Gade, July 8.

*Jesse, Richard A.,* in Luther Memorial Congregation, Shorewood, Wis., by Martin Mencke, 5. Sun. p. Tr., July 6.

*Meyer, Melvin H.,* in Immanuel Congregation, Louisville, Nebr., by F. J. Schleef, 5. Sun. p. Tr., July 6.

*Palechek, Albert G.,* in St. Peter's Congregation, Emery, S. Dak., by E. W. Krause, 6. Sun. p. Tr., July 13.

*Pohl, W. Allen,* as professor in the Lutheran High School, Milwaukee, Wis., by Walter C. Meyer, Trinity Sun., June 1.

*Rist, Waldo H.,* in St. John's Congregation, Idaho, by R. A. Koch, Mis. Dom. Sun., Apr. 20.

*Rodehorst, E. C.,* in St. Paul's Congregation, Cheney, Kans., by K. J. Karstensen, 6. Sun. p. Tr., July 13.

*Rueber, Arthur,* in Salem Congregation, Gurley, Nebr., by Henry Dorn, 6. Sun. p. Tr., July 13.

*Schlichting, Joseph,* in Emmanuel Congregation, Arenzville, Ill., by Harry A. Timm., 7. Sun. p. Tr., July 20.

*Schultz, William M.,* in Our Savior Congregation, Igloo, S. Dak., by R. W. Uecker, 6. Sun. p. Tr., July 13.

*Schulz, Aaron R.,* in Mount Olive Congregation, Iron Mountain, and in Our Redeemer Congregation, Kingsford, Mich., by Theo. E. Zaremba, 6. Sun. p. Tr., July 13.

*Schwane, W. H.,* in St. Paul's Congregation, Kouts, Ind., by C. J. Sangers, 6. Sun. p. Tr., July 13.

*Streufert, Waldemar B.,* in Immanuel Congregation, Pevely, Mo., by G. H. Hilmer, 7. Sun. p. Tr., July 20.

*Stuckmeyer, Richard C.,* in Christ Congregation, Chicago (Austin), Ill., by C. F. Dankworth, 5. Sun. p. Tr., July 6.

*Thalacker, L. E.,* in St. John's Congregation, Deer Lodge, Mont., by Robt. Mackensen, 6. Sun. p. Tr., July 13.

*Traugott, A. F.,* in St. John's Congregation, Ellinwood, Kans., by K. J. Karstensen, 7. Sun. p. Tr., July 20.

*Wetzel, Louis,* in St. John's Congregation, Atwater, Minn., by E. D. Eifert, Oculi Sun., March 9.

*Zuberbier, G. W.,* in Martin's Congregation, Chilton, Wis., by H. W. Baxmann, 6. Sun. p. Tr., July 13.

### TEACHERS

*Abel, Alfred C.,* in Zion Congregation, Bensenville, Ill., by Erwin H. Heidorn, 7. Sun. p. Tr., July 20.

*Bloch, Victor K.,* in Salem Congregation, Saint Louis, Mo., by Theo. Gerken, 6. Sun. p. Tr., July 13.

*Diers, Edgar J.,* in Zion Congregation, Vernon, Tex., by H. F. Peiman, 5. Sun. p. Tr., July 6.

*Eggerling, Reinhard M.,* in St. Paul's Congregation, Sidney, Nebr., by Henry Dorn, 6. Sun. p. Tr., July 13.

*Groth, Rodolph,* in St. Paul's Congregation, Dubuque, Iowa, by F. E. Schultz, 4. Sun. p. Tr., June 29.

*Krueger, Harold,* in St. Paul's Congregation, Oconomowoc, Wis., by Theo. E. Kissling, July 12.

*Leimer, Walter B.,* in St. Luke's Congregation, St. Louis, Mo., by Clarence Peters, 7. Sun. p. Tr., July 20.

*Link, Otto K.,* in Christ Congregation, Houston, Tex., by J. W. Behnken, Jr., 6. Sun. p. Tr., July 13.

*Lueders, E. M.,* in Immanuel Congregation, Pomeroy, Iowa, by P. E. Ross, 7. Sun. p. Tr., July 20.

*Meyer, Erwin,* in St. John's Congregation, Chicago, Ill., by Henry Blanke, 6. Sun. p. Tr., July 13.

*Raabe, Martin B.,* in St. John's Congregation, St. James, Minn., by W. F. Rolf, 6. Sun. p. Tr., uly 13.

## Announcement

A committee composed of Prof. A. H. Schwermann, B. Ed., D. D., Prof. A. Guebert, and Rev. A. J. Mueller conducted a colloquy with *Mr. H. Reinitz,* Hoosier, Saskatchewan, Canada, and found him doctrinally well qualified to cary on the work of the Christian ministry.

In view of their findings the undersigned members of Synod's Examining Board give notice that *Mr. H. Reinitz* is available for a call into the ministry in our Synod. — G. Chr. Barth, D. D., President, Theological Seminary, Springfield, Ill. Albert C. Bernthal, President of Central Illinois District, *Chairman.*

July 14, 1947

All matters pertaining to the presidency of the Central District are to be addressed to *Rev. John W. Meyer,* 1416 Arthur Ave., Lakewood, Ohio, who succeeds the undersigned.

Hammond, Ind. W. F. LICHTSINN

*Pastor J. E. Schwarting,* Groton, S. Dak., has been appointed Visitor of the Aberdeen Circuit in place of Pastor C. H. Mueller, who has moved into another circuit. — WALTER NITSCHKE, *President of the South Dakota District.*

Howard, S. Dak., July 14, 1947

## Wanted

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## Changes of Address

**Pastors**

Ave-Lallemant, L. J., 311 Erie Ave., Oconto, Wis.
Dautenhahn, Theo., 1501 E. Moffat Ave., Springfield, Ill.
Frank, Victor C., 222 S. 17th St., Las Vegas, Nev.
Gross, Richard E., Basswood Hill, Fillmore, N. Y.
Hess, J. R., 610½ S. First St., Tucumcari, N. Mex.
Hofman, M. F., Gladstone, Nebr.
Huber, Walter H., 846 Wakefield St., Houston 8, Tex.
Jank, Max T., Wellman, Iowa
Kettler, Earl C., Box 209, Hot Springs, N. Mex.
Koehnken, R. H., Arriba, Colo.
Kreutz, Victor E., Box 215, Milton, Oreg.
Manns, Richard, 108—08 220th St., Queens Village 9, N. Y.
Meier, Robert E., R. 5, Guymon, Okla.
Rein, R. C., 1619 Gratiot Ave., Saginaw, Mich.
Rist, Waldo H., 281 E. Seventh St., Idaho Falls, Idaho
Ritthamel, F. W., 8451 30th Ave., S. W., Seattle 6, Wash.
Rueber, Arthur, Gurley, Nebr.
Schlichting, J., R. 1, Arenzville, Ill.
Schroeder, K. F., 5413 N. Peters St., New Orleans 17, La.
Stapf, Carl J., Columbia, S. Dak.
Strandes, Walter, 322 Auburn Ave., Pontiac 20, Mich.
Streufert, Waldemar B., R. 1, Pevely, Mo.
Stuckmeyer, Richard C., 1511 N. Long Ave., Chicago 51, Ill.
Traugott, Arthur F., 204 E. Third St., Ellinwood, Kans.
Voss, T. H., 442 N. Rosevere, Dearborn, Mich.
Weiss, D. E., 604 S. Green St., Rock Rapids, Iowa
Zuberbier, G. W., 66 Lehner St., Chilton, Wis.

**Teachers**

Bethke, T. R., c/o Henry T. Bethke, R. 1, Box 170, Georgetown, Tex.
Eggerling, Reinhard M., 2226 Maple St., Sidney, Nebr.
Eggert, E. W., 927 Via Wanda, Long Beach 5, Calif.
Fischer, A. H., 200 Widmer St., Defiance, Ohio
Hornbostel, Wilmer, 300 S. 11th St., Independence, Kans.
Kautz, Darrel, 3107 N. Kostner Ave., Chicago 41, Ill.
Luebke, Paul T., 6031 Manistique, Detroit 24, Mich.
Lusmann, A., 730 E. Pikes Peak Ave., Colorado Springs, Colo.
Metzger, Robert, 445 Eureka, Wyandotte, Mich.
Mieger, Alfred W., 1338 Cornelia, Chicago 13, Ill.
Wunderlich, M. H., Altenburg, Mo.
Zeddies, Leslie R., 16883 Hauss Ave., East Detroit, Mich.


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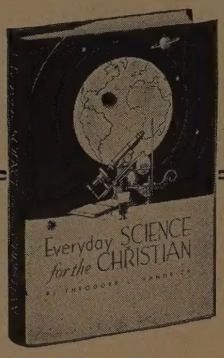


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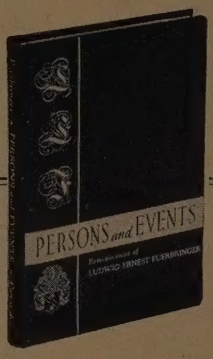


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